



# FROM THE TOWER

February/March

2026

Worship with Us!

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Building Faith  $\ddagger$  Building Community  $\ddagger$  Building Lives



## A Word from Our Pastor

**Pastor Dave Fox,  
Senior Pastor/  
Head of Staff**

### The Fox's Trot

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

*(Ephesians 4:32, NRSVUE)*

By now, we are likely finished with turkey and heavy meals. We might even be finished with some of our family. The hectic pace of November and December—the gatherings, the commitments, the expectations—may have left us frustrated by other people's behavior.

Perhaps a neighbor said something that cut you to the core simply because they were in a bad mood. Maybe a coworker was overly critical of work you had put real effort into. Or a family member snapped at everyone for no apparent reason, showing their true colors at exactly the wrong moment. Whatever the situation, we often judge these behaviors at face value, assuming the other person is simply being difficult. Yet what we see on the surface is usually only a small part of what is going on in another person's life.

Recently, my son and I watched—again—the movie *A Man Called Otto*. This film offers a helpful lens for understanding how poor behavior often runs deeper than what we initially encounter. Otto, the main character, is cantankerous, rigid, and nearly impossible to please. His neighbors have written him off as nothing more than a grumpy old man.

But as the story unfolds, we begin to see what lies beneath Otto's hardened exterior. There is deep grief over lost love, profound loneliness, and a lifetime marked by disappointment and loss. Otto's grumpiness is not the whole story; it is a shell, protecting his wounded heart. His harsh behavior masks deep human pain.

In the same way, the difficult behaviors we encounter in others—especially the most frustrating ones—are often rooted in experiences we know nothing about. This does not excuse hurtful behavior, but it does help us understand it more clearly.

With that in mind, I want to invite you to pause the next time you run into a “grump.” Resist the urge to take their behavior personally. Consider that something deeper may be at play.

Instead of reacting with frustration, try responding with grace.

Here are four practices that can help us do just that:

First, when someone frustrates you, pause and ask yourself: What might be driving this behavior? Considering possibilities such as stress, past hurts, fear, or grief can shift our response from judgment to understanding.

Second, take a few minutes each day to reflect or journal about interactions that challenged you. Ask: How might I respond with patience or kindness instead of irritation next time?

Third, think about someone whose behavior regularly annoys you. Imagine three possible reasons for their actions—none of which are about you. Reflect on how viewing them through this lens might soften your response.

Fourth, focus intentionally on the good around you. Each day, notice what you are grateful for and offer one small act of kindness. Over time, this practice helps us resist sliding into negativity or grumpiness ourselves.

Otto's story reminds us that everyone we encounter is carrying burdens we cannot see. Our Christian calling is not to excuse harmful or abusive behavior. Grace does not mean ignoring real harm. Rather, we are called to respond with kindness, patience, and empathy—while also maintaining healthy boundaries. Sometimes grace includes speaking up when those boundaries are crossed.

So, is there someone in your life you've written off as “difficult”? Could you pause and imagine what might lie beneath the surface? Could you respond with patience—or even a small act of kindness?

Like Otto's neighbors, we may discover that empathy and compassion have the power not only to change someone else's life, but to transform our own as well.

Peace be the journey,  
Pastor Dave

## Wonderful Wednesdays

# W O N D E R F U L W E D N E S D A Y S

5:45 PM - 7:30 PM

**BIBLE STUDY • FOOD • MUSIC • CRAFTS**

### **3rd Semester**

Feb. 4, 11

### **4th Semester**

Apr. 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20

We are excited  
to offer this  
program to all  
students in  
**Grades K-12.**



Please scan this  
QR Code to  
register your  
child.

## Minister of Music



**Brandon Spence, DMA**  
**Minister of Music**

### **Leading from Behind: The Organist as Worship Partner**

Most people don't see the organist during worship. Often seated behind the congregation or high in a loft, the organist isn't in the spotlight. But their role in shaping the singing is vital.

Think of the organist not as a performer but as a worship partner—someone who quietly supports and encourages the congregation's voice. This leadership is subtle but powerful. The organist's job isn't to show off or dominate the room. It's to serve. That means playing in a way that lifts the congregation, not overshadows it. When hymn playing is done well, the organ becomes an extension of the people's praise—steady, warm, and welcoming.

A good organist listens carefully during hymns. If the congregation begins to slow down or rush ahead, the organist adjusts—sometimes even in the middle of a verse. It's a dance of sorts, with the organist gently guiding without being rigid. This sensitivity helps everyone stay together and feel confident.

Another key element is phrasing—how the music breathes. Just like speaking in full sentences, hymns should be sung with natural rises and falls, with time to breathe. A thoughtful organist shapes the music to match the phrasing of the text, helping the congregation sing with both heart and clarity. This behind-the-scenes leadership transforms hymn singing into a deeper act of unity. It encourages participation from everyone, regardless of musical skill. The congregation becomes not just an audience, but a choir of worshipers.

So, while the organist may be out of sight, their role is central. Through tempo, registration, phrasing, and attentiveness, they help create a space where the congregation's song becomes vibrant, grounded, and alive. Next time you sing a hymn, remember: you're not singing alone—you have a partner in praise, just a few feet behind the scenes.

## Council Corner

The Church Council met and spent time in prayer, discussion, and planning for the continued ministry of our church. Grateful for the faithful leadership and thoughtful participation of our council members, church staff and volunteers.

There was a leak over the altar that caused water to drip onto the altar. After investigation, the cause was determined to be faulty fitting around the cross on the roof. We are pleased to report that the repair has been completed, and the issue has been resolved.

Christmas brought another year of beautiful decorations and services to our church. The Council helped with the planning, and thanks to the wonderful efforts of many volunteers, the sanctuary looked truly spectacular.

Planning for the Lenten season was one focus of our January meeting. We hope everyone will join us for the Wednesday soup suppers and worship services. This year, monetary offerings will be used to purchase a water well to provide clean and safe drinking water, supporting those in need around the world.

Respectfully,  
Diane Washburn  
Gloria Dei Church Council President

### Annual Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday Worship

**Wednesday, February 18**  
**Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.**

You are invited for pancakes, sausage, fruit cocktail, juice, and hot drinks. A free-will offering will be taken, and proceeds will be going toward the Women of the ELCA's ministry effort to purchase a water well to provide clean and safe drinking water, supporting those in need around the world.

**Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday is the doorway to the season of Lent. The spirit of this service is solemn but not sad, dealing with our need for reconciliation with God. This will be a service of Holy Communion, and the optional order for the Imposition of Ashes will be offered.

### Wednesday Worship and Soup Suppers in Lent

**February 25 – March 25**  
**Conversations with Jesus: Services of Word and Healing for Lent**  
**WORSHIP at 7:00 p.m.**

This year, our theme for our five Wednesdays in Lent is *Conversations with Jesus*. Each of the following five Wednesdays, we will have a simple soup supper, beginning at 6:00 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. There is no meal on Maundy Thursday nor Good Friday.

7:00 p.m. begins our Evening Vespers, and the sermons will focus on the following readings:

Lent 1, February 25 .....	Matthew 4:1-11
Lent 2, March 4 .....	John 3:2-9
Lent 3, March 11 .....	John 4:5-15
Lent 4, March 18 .....	John 9:1-11
Lent 5, March 25 .....	John 11:1-6, 17-27

**Please sign up on the sheet in the Atrium or contact Kevin M. at 757-288-0268 if you are interested in helping in the following areas: making soup, helping with setup, serving the soup, and cleaning up for our Wednesday evening Lenten Soup Suppers.**

## Fellowship Bible Study

Fellowship Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Simeon Center. We use a study called Daily Faith Practices published by the ELCA. For information, please email Sharon Padula at [slpadula1@gmail.com](mailto:slpadula1@gmail.com).

## Community Bible Study

Our weekly Community Bible Study, held at H.E.L.P., 329 Buckroe Avenue, **is held on Wednesdays at noon**. All are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity for us to learn the needs of our community and help us to become more outreach-oriented. Please know that we will not be meeting on days when a holiday is being celebrated or when Pastor Dave is out of town.

## Life Groups at Gloria Dei

Joining or creating a small group in your church offers a unique opportunity to grow deeper in your faith and build meaningful connections. In a small group, you can share your struggles, celebrate victories, and pray with others who understand your journey. It's a space where you can learn, ask questions, and support one another in ways that go beyond Sunday services. The relationships formed in small groups often become a source of encouragement and accountability, helping you live out your faith daily. As the early church gathered together in Acts, small groups are still a powerful way to experience fellowship, discipleship, and service. By connecting with others, you not only strengthen your own faith but also contribute to the growth and health of the church body. Together, we can grow in love, truth, and purpose—empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as Christ's hands and feet. If you feel the call to host a small group and/or to join a small group, please email Pastor at [pastordave@gloriadei.net](mailto:pastordave@gloriadei.net).

## Women of Gloria Dei WELCA

### News Alert From The Women of Gloria Die

Due to the relocation of the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits distribution center, shipping costs have significantly increased, and logistics have become much more challenging. As a result, we are discontinuing our tradition of assembling and sending Personal Care Kits as part of our Lenten Journey.

Although we will no longer be able to assemble and ship the kits, we encourage everyone to support the ELCA Good Gifts through direct monetary donations. The Senior Youth Group will set up their Wishing Well during the Lenten Season to collect your generous contributions. Every donation makes a meaningful difference and allows us to keep helping those in need during times of distress.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make the Personal Care Kits a tremendous success in the past. With your continued generosity and the support of the Women of the Church, we are confident the Youth Group's Wishing Well will overflow with compassion and hope!

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We will continue to get together on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Pour Girls in downtown Hampton for a Glass with the Girls. Please come join us. And remember, glasses can hold a lot of different things! If you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## WELCA Book Group

The next gathering of the Book Group will be on **Monday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m.**, at the home of Sharon Padula. The book selected is **“Seeing a Large Cat,”** by Elizabeth Peters. It's a light, fun read, so it would be a perfect time to come join us to see what a book club is all about. Here's a synopsis of the story.

*In the year 1903, Cairo is buzzing with intrigue as Amelia Peabody finds herself embroiled in new adventures. The story opens with a chilling message: “Stay away from tomb Twenty-Al.” This warning sets the tone for Amelia's ninth escapade. The requests for help vary as Amelia's old friend seeks her expertise. This friend's husband is now enamored with a spiritualist, stirring up tension among acquaintances. Shortly thereafter, an urgent plea arrives from an expatriate colonel. His daughter faces threats from an unknown enemy, escalating the stakes for Amelia and her family. Amelia's son, Ramses, now a spirited teenager, brings his own complications to this already chaotic family dynamic. His headstrong nature guarantees that his mother will find her hair turning white due to worry. A significant turning point occurs when Amelia dreams of a large cat, an Egyptian symbol of fortune. Ironically, luck appears to be in short supply for the Peabodys.*

Then on **March 9, at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll gather at the home of Diane Washburn to discuss the book **“Elanore Oliphant is Completely Fine,”** by Gail Honeyman. It's a thought-provoking book and should lead to a great discussion. Come join us!

*No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine. Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.*

*But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.*

As always, if you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



*“She seeks wool and flax and works willingly with her hands”*  
Proverbs 31:13

**“God's Work. Our Hands”**

This is exactly what the Prayer Shawl Ministry does. By creating, shawls and blankets to show God's love to members of the congregation, we are using our hands for God's work. Each time we meet, we work on creating a gift for someone who needs a gesture of love.

Please consider joining us on the second Sunday of the month to share in our ministry and fellowship. After putting our needles to work, we often head to Capri for lunch. You would be welcome to join us. If you have any questions, contact Rita Foringer at [rforinger@verizon.net](mailto:rforinger@verizon.net).

## First Light (Sunday School)

Our Sunday School program, First Light, is on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., in the Simeon Center. This class is for all ages.

## Supper at Capri

Join Pastor and others at Capri Pizza and Italian Restaurant, 227 Fox Hill Rd, on Tuesdays, February 24 and March 17, at 6:00 p.m. We will have a meal together and share in conversations around Scripture. At the end of our time together, we will share Holy Communion. Invite your friends and family. **Please, RSVP by the Tuesday prior, February 17 and March 10;** we want to make sure the restaurant is prepared for our group being there. You are responsible for the cost of your meal and a generous tip.

## Calendar Request

Please email [CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net](mailto:CalendarRequest@gloriadei.net) for all facility usage requests.

## Maintenance Requests

If you see something on our church campus that needs repair or attention, please send an email to [maintenance@gloriadei.net](mailto:maintenance@gloriadei.net).

## H.E.L.P. Donations

Please, join us in filling up the red wagon to feed the hungry in our community. They have an immediate need for paper grocery bags. The following are items on their most needed list:

* Mac & Cheese	* Toilet Paper	* Peanut Butter
* Juice (individual size)	* Soap	* Shelf-stable milk
* Canned veggies—corn, beans, green beans	* Crackers	* Canned or Boxed Potatoes

## Girl Scout Cookie Booths

It's that time of year again. Help support our girl scouts by purchasing or donating a box of cookies. Girl Scout troop 1041 will be hosting cookie booths on the following dates:

February 22 and February 28 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
March 1 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
March 7 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
March 8 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cookies are \$5 and \$6 a box. Troop accepts cash, card, or check. For more information, contact troop leader Vicki O'Neill at [vicki.oneill@ymail.com](mailto:vicki.oneill@ymail.com).

## Easter Egg Orders

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is selling chocolate covered Easter eggs. The eggs are available in two sizes and seven fabulous flavors. The large eggs weigh approximately 8 oz. and can be personalized. The small eggs can be ordered in an assortment with one of each flavor or one flavor per box. The weight of each small egg is approximately 1.5 oz. All eggs will be decorated with flowers. Orders forms may be picked up at the Information Desk. Please return completed order forms to the Information Desk in the Atrium and place in the box labeled Easter Egg Orders.

**Order taking will begin February 1. All orders must be pre-paid.**

Order deadline is Monday, March 16. Make checks payable to *Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*.  
Questions: Mary Mace (757) 826-5435.

**Order pick-up dates:** Friday, March 27, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## First Communion

First Communion classes will be offered at **6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, February 4 and February 11**. This class is open to all ages. You should plan for your child to attend both classes. Please note, that your child should have this class before they begin Confirmation. We will celebrate their First Communion during Sunday morning worship on Sunday, February 15. To sign up, please call, 757-851-2838, or email Peggy Sipes in the Church Office, [psipes@gloriadei.net](mailto:psipes@gloriadei.net).

## Worship on YouTube

We are excited to make our worship more accessible to those who want to worship with us at Gloria Dei who are not physically able to be with us in the nave. YouTube is available to anyone with the internet to worship with us.

\*Scan this QR code with your smartphone:



## Newsletter Deadline

April/May Newsletter deadline

**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

Please email articles to [tbialk@gloriadei.net](mailto:tbialk@gloriadei.net).



**Lisa Dadez,  
Principal**

### From the Principal

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are already entering the second semester of the school year. The Christmas season was a joyful and busy time at Gloria Dei, and our students did a wonderful job during their Christmas programs. From our toddlers to our teens, students blessed families, friends, and staff by sharing the true meaning of Christmas through their beautiful songs. A heartfelt thank you to our music team—Dr. Spence, Ms. Schubert, and Mrs. Barefoot. Your dedication, talent, and guidance are deeply appreciated.

We are thrilled to announce the completion of the final playground structure on the Willow Oaks campus. The Denali Wall features six Rock Climbers, two Arch Leaf Climbers, and two Hex Climbers, providing space for up to 35 students to play at once. Designed to encourage imaginative play, the structure also promotes strength, coordination, and physical development.

A special thank you goes to Rashard Russell, Mike Riley, and the Stewards of Gloria Dei Church for their dedication and hard work. Despite several weather-related setbacks, they remained committed to bringing this project to life.

Students and staff are already enjoying the new addition, and the kindergarten classes, in particular, have been having a blast with the new equipment. Check out the photos below to see them in action!



Soon, we will begin registration for the 2026–2027 school year. By the end of the first week of March, families should receive a registration packet for the upcoming school year. If you do not receive your packet, please contact the school office at (757) 851-6292, and we will be happy to mail one to you.

Registration for current students and members of our congregation begins on Monday, March 16. Registration will open to the public on Monday, March 23. If your child currently attends Gloria Dei and you plan for your child to return next year, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of advance registration during the week of March 16–20 to reserve your child's placement. Please note that returning students must re-register each year, as registration is an annual process.

Each year's program is thoughtfully designed to build a strong foundation through sequential skill development. As students progress from one grade level to the next, programs expand to provide a broader range of academic, social, and enrichment opportunities.

Children in our Toddler/Two-Year-Old classes may enroll in a full-day program beginning with the summer program. These students enjoy a positive first-school experience through age-appropriate activities, art projects, games, music, library time, and chapel. Students must be at least 16 months old on their entrance date to attend.

At the preschool level, we offer a half-day academic program, with the option of hourly or full-time childcare before and/or after school if needed. Preschoolers participate in weekly themed units, early alphabet and phonics instruction, counting and number concepts, art, children's literature, learning games, music, chapel, physical education, and library. Preschool provides children with opportunities to develop friendships, learn conflict resolution skills, and grow socially and academically. Preschool students must be potty-trained and be three years old by November 30, 2026.

Students advancing from preschool to prekindergarten engage in pre-reading and language development through programs such as *Handwriting Without Tears Word*, *Scholastic News*, and *Mortimer Moose* for alphabet and phonics instruction, as well as *Handwriting Without Tears Math*. In addition to engaging classroom activities and games, prekindergarten students enjoy weekly P.E., music, chapel, library, and hands-on science instruction. Every other week, students participate in nutrition lessons with Chef Combo and visit the computer lab for educational software activities.

Kick Start Kindergarten is designed for students who are age-eligible for kindergarten but may need additional readiness support, students repeating prekindergarten, or advanced students entering prekindergarten. Eligibility requires a screening and a teacher recommendation.

The Willow Oaks campus provides all the essential facilities needed to support our elementary students, including a computer lab, library, art and music rooms, science room, P.E. athletic field, playground, infirmary, and administrative offices. Our elementary program reflects a strong tradition of academic excellence in a Christian environment, with an emphasis on the mental, spiritual, physical, emotional, and social development of each student. The curriculum builds strong foundational skills in phonics, reading comprehension, spelling, math, and writing, while offering a rich and engaging resource schedule that includes weekly art, extended computer time, P.E., Spanish, chapel, library, music, chorus, and S.T.E.M. science lab experiences.

Our middle school program is also located on the Willow Oaks campus. The upcoming school year will be our final year offering eighth grade, bringing our middle school program to a meaningful conclusion. Middle school students transition between classes for core subjects including literature, grammar, composition, math, science, and social studies, while also participating in a wide range of enrichment opportunities such as health, physical education, art, CSI, computers, Stop Motion Animation, chapel, library, music, and more. In addition, high school credit courses are offered in Algebra I, Geometry, and Spanish I.

It is truly remarkable what students can achieve through a strong academic curriculum, enriching resource classes, a spiritual foundation that reinforces values and morals, a nurturing and caring environment, and a strong partnership between home and school. Now more than ever, it is essential for students to develop not only a solid educational foundation but also a firm grounding in moral and ethical standards. Children learn values through example, guidance, and experience. The environment you provide for your child today will influence them for a lifetime, and we are honored to partner with you on your child's educational journey.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Lisa S. Dadez  
Principal

### **Eighth Grade News**

Happy New Year! We are closing in on semester exams and the end of the first semester. Eighth grade is off to a busy start this January, and will soon be reviewing for semester exams in all core subjects.

The students have full schedules, with core classes of Language Arts, Physical Science, American History, Math and Spanish, as well as resource classes in Art, Music, Computers, Physical Education, Bible Study, Novel Study, and assorted quarterly elective classes.

The students continue to participate in the AR reading program in middle school. In fact, every single middle school student met, or exceeded, their reading goal for the first quarter!

Eighth grade math offerings consist of either Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, or Geometry. Algebra I and Geometry are both taught at the high school level, and students have the opportunity to earn one year of high school math credit with the successful completion of each of these courses. The students are handling their challenging course load well!

The eighth grade Spanish 1B students have been diligently working to learn Spanish this year. Spanish 1B is an elective high school level class and is quite academically challenging. If the student completes Spanish 1A and 1B with success, the student

may earn high school credit. Ms. Vaught shared that she is very proud of her students and the work that they have done thus far.

The students have had some fun this year also! They especially enjoy 'Ice Cream Wednesdays' and 'Special Lunch' days. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast was a wonderful event as well. To celebrate Christmas, they had a mug exchange, drank hot cocoa, and watched a holiday movie during our fun 'Mugs and Movies' event. The students also enjoyed a field trip to the HUB 757 Performing Arts Center in Suffolk to see the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet in the fall.

Eighth graders made cards for veterans at the VA Hospital in honor of Veteran's Day and for Christmas. They also participated in the food drive for H.E.L.P. during Fall Festival week. They played the bells and sang beautifully for their Christmas program in December.

We look forward to the remainder of our school year. The second semester promises to be just as full of learning, activities, and special events. Before we know it, the eighth-grade students will be celebrating their very special Gloria Dei graduation in June.

~ Mrs. Vogt  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Home Base, Physical Science, and Geometry Teacher

## School Employment Opportunities

Gloria Dei Lutheran School has the following positions available:

- \* **Director of Transportation**
- \* **Director of Food Service**
- \* **Part-time Bus Drivers**
- \* **Lead Teacher - Two year-old program**
- \* **Afternoon Child Care Aides**
- \* **Buildings and Grounds Assistant**
- \* **Substitute Teachers** (preschool, elementary, and middle school)

Part-time and full-time hours available. If you are interested in applying, you can find an application online at <http://www.gdlshamptonva.com/school-forms>. Once completed, you may turn it into the School Office at 250 Fox Hill Rd., Hampton, VA 23669, attention: Lisa Dadez.

## Veterans Care Project

This fall, students from our toddler program through eighth grade participated in creating cards in support of the Veterans Care Project. Students thoughtfully crafted messages that were shared with veterans on Veterans Day and again during the Christmas season. We extend our sincere thanks to the Gloria Dei Girl Scouts for assisting with this project and for their support of veterans on Halloween. According to Rick Mulligan, Founder and President of the Veterans Care Project, the veterans deeply appreciate receiving these cards and look forward to the heartfelt words of gratitude, encouragement, and holiday wishes they receive throughout the year.



### To: Principal & Staff -Gloria Dei Lutheran School

On behalf of Veterans Care Project, we would like to extend our most sincere thanks for your generous support and for all that you do for our residents at the VA Hospital. Your donation—whether through resources, services, or financial contributions—makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the men and women who have served our nation with honor.

Our veterans answered the call to duty, often placing their own lives and well-being in harm's way to protect the freedoms we enjoy every day. While their service does not end when they return home, many face significant challenges transitioning back to civilian life, including physical injuries, emotional trauma, and the need for continued care and support. Your generosity helps ensure that they are not facing these struggles alone.

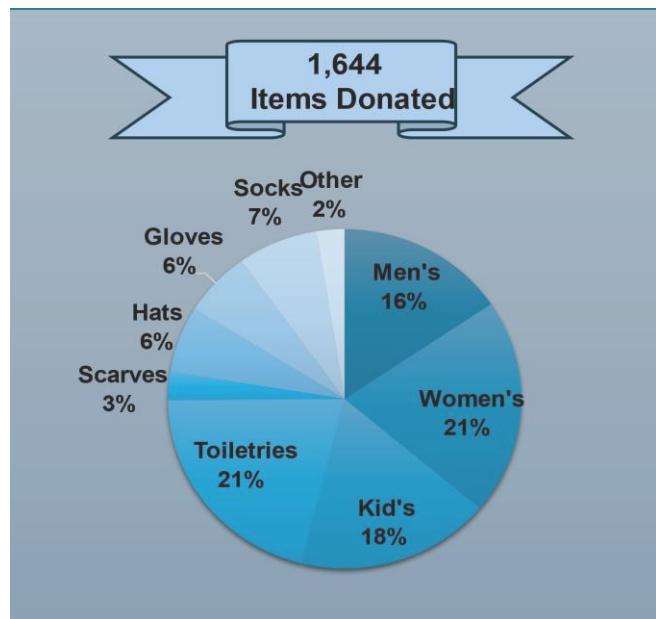
Because of compassionate supporters like you, we are able to provide a spark of comfort, dignity, and hope to those who have sacrificed so much. Your commitment reflects the very best of patriotic spirit and demonstrates a deep respect for those who have worn our nation's uniform.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and look forward to the opportunity to continue working together in support of our veterans. Thank you again for standing with us as we strive to honor and care for those who have given so much for our country.

With deepest appreciation and gratitude,

**Rick Mulligan**  
Founder & President

## Thank You from Gloria Dei's Coat Ministry!!



I would like to thank Gloria Dei for continuing to support our annual winter gear drive. During the 2025 collection cycle, we received a **total of 1,644 items!**

Donations come from our amazing church, school and Fox Hill communities, all of whom donated using our drop-off bins or scheduled drive-thru drop-off. Updates to the ministry's signage and social media messaging have continued to help grow this ministry far beyond the bounds of our buildings. We are proud to partner with H.E.L.P. in distributing all adult donations at local shelters as well as the Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula in doing the same for children's donations.

Gloria Dei, thank you for doing your part to ensure a greater access to the most basic and urgent needs of Hampton Roads' unhoused, underserved, and underprivileged.

Lovingly,  
Andrew Sutherland

## Pastoral Record

### February Birthdays

1 Luke Phillips	17 Michelle Robertson, Ruth Hutchison	24 Bruce Thomas, Kristina Robinson
3 Ann Riley, Annika Hella	18 Aaron Sutherland, Gabby Hella	27 Frank Dickseski, Jr
4 Virginia Lyeth, Sally Miller, Easton Etheridge	Judy Wagner St. Pierre	28 Jerri Dickseski
11 Joshua Green, Lola Atkins	20 Isabella Zamora, Sandra Dunn	
12 Jennifer Robinson	21 David Mulpur	
14 Sharon Padula	22 Jill Ruhl, Brown Cornwell	
	23 Bill Swanson, Kirsten Snyder	

### February Anniversaries

8 Tad and Rita Foringer Chris and Jennifer Robinson	17 Ernie and Tami Atkins	23 Bill and Pat Roscoph
14 John and Carolyn Campbell	19 Jason and Jessica Green Tom and Donna Vanorsdale	

### March Birthdays

2 Aaliyah Urban	10 Renee Wells	26 Deacon Liz Fox
4 Marna Mayo	16 Hayley O'Neill	28 J. P. Venable, III
5 Jack Robinson	17 Anita Hamilton	30 Rhodes Lomax, Susan Krebs
6 Buzz Hamilton	18 Rachel Lomax, Amanda Wells	
7 Bob Sipes	19 Eric Olsen, Ollie Fox	
8 Maddi Etheridge, Vangie Miller	20 Matthew Werner, Robert Miller	

### March Anniversaries

25 Danny and Vickie Roark	28 Bill and Nancy Monroe	31 Jay and Jackie Hart
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### Baptisms

Avaly Miller  
January 18, 2026

### **Thank You from the Staff**

The Church Staff wishes to thank the

Congregation for their very generous gifts to us this Christmas.

*Rick*

*Brandon Peggy*

*Rick* *Jenny*

*Laura*

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM Troop Meeting	3 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  4 PM Senior Staff Meeting	4 12 PM Community Bible Study- H.E.L.P.  5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, First Communion, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	5	6	7
8 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry	9 6 PM Pinewood Derby  6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting  7 PM Troop Meeting	10 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	11 12 PM Community Bible Study- H.E.L.P.  5:45 PM-Growing with Jesus (K- 4th Gr.), Jr. & Sr. Youth Music 6:15 PM Dinner 6:45 PM 5th & 6th Gr. Bible Study, Confirmation, First Communion, Sr. High Discipleship, Music, Crafts	12 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting	13 10 AM Wedding Rehearsal	14 5 PM Cunningham /Polyzos Wedding  Valentine's Day
15 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP/</b> <b>First Communion</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	16 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM Troop Meeting  <i>President's Day – Church Office Closed</i>	17 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	18 12 PM Community Bible Study- H.E.L.P.  6 PM Pancake Supper  <b>7 PM Ash Wednesday Worship</b>	19	20	21 10 AM Blue and Gold Banquet
22 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	23 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting  7 PM Troop Meeting; WELCA at <i>Pour Girls</i>	24 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study  <i>6 PM Suppers at Capri – Reservation Required</i>	25 12 PM Community Bible Study- H.E.L.P.  6 PM Soup Supper  <b>7 PM Lenten Worship</b>	26	27	28

Winter Celebration  
Youth Retreat

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM Troop Meeting	3 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 4 PM Senior Staff Meeting	4 12 PM Community Bible Study-H.E.L.P. 6 PM Soup Supper <b>7 PM Lenten Worship</b>	5	6	7
8 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Prayer Shawl Ministry 5 PM "A Storyteller's Fire"	9 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM Troop Meeting	10 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study <i>Capri RSVP Deadline</i>	11 12 PM Community Bible Study-H.E.L.P. 6 PM Soup Supper <b>7 PM Lenten Worship</b>	12 6 PM Pack Committee Meeting	13 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	14
15 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; ExAdCom	16 6:30 PM Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM Troop Meeting	17 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study 6 PM Suppers at Capri – <i>Reservation Required</i>	18 12 PM Community Bible Study-H.E.L.P. 6 PM Soup Supper <b>7 PM Lenten Worship</b>	19	20 Finding Nemo Musical	21
22 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting	23 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting 7 PM WELCA @ Pour Girls	24 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	25 12 PM Community Bible Study-H.E.L.P. 6 PM Soup Supper <b>7 PM Lenten Worship</b>	26	27 12 PM - 5 PM Order Pick-up for Chocolate Easter Eggs	28
29 8:30 AM First Light (Sunday School) <b>9:30 AM-WORSHIP/Palm Sunday</b> 11 AM Choir Rehearsal; Council Meeting 9 AM – 12 PM Order Pick-up for Chocolate Easter Eggs	30 6:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting; Pack 27 Meeting	31 10 AM Fellowship Bible Study	April 1	2 <b>7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship</b> <i>No Meal</i>	3 <b>7 PM Good Friday Worship</b> <i>No Meal</i>	

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

250 Fox Hill Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669-1793

Telephone (757) 851-2838

[www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net](http://www.gloriadeilutheranchurch.net), [GDLC@gloriadei.net](mailto:GDLC@gloriadei.net)

Gloria Dei is a congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Dated Material



**Worship with us!**

In-person in the Nave or YouTube

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

## Ash Wednesday through Easter

<b>February 18</b>	6:00 p.m.	Pancake Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
<b>February 25-March 25</b>	6:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Lenten Soup Suppers
	7:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Lenten Worships
<b>March 29</b>	9:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship
<b>April 2</b>	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
<b>April 3</b>	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Worship
<b>April 5</b>	9:30 a.m.	Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday Worship

## Online Giving

If you would like to give electronically, you can do so by scanning one of the QR codes below.

Tithe.ly



PayPal



Venmo

